

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 2-13 and 15 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 14 and 16 are canceled and Claims 2, 3, 6-8 10 and 11 are amended. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the indication that Claims 12 and 13 are allowed and that Claims 7-9 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the February 18, 2008 telephone interview. The substance of the discussions are incorporated into the amendments and remarks herein and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-6, 10 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,960,992 to *Bernstein et al.* in view of JP 7-40982 (JP '982); rejects Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over *Bernstein et al.*, JP '982 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,279,779 to *Laciacera et al.*; rejects claims 14 and 15 under 335 U.S.C. §103(a) over *Bernstein*, JP '982 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,884,705 to *Debetencourt*; rejects claims 1-6, 10 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over *Bernstein* in view of JP 11-171233 (JP '233); rejects claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over *Bernstein*, JP '233 and further in view of *Laciacera et al.*; and rejects claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over *Bernstein*, JP '233 and further in view of *Debetencourt*. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 14 have been canceled. Dependent Claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 and 11 have been amended to depend from independent Claim 12 , previously indicated

as containing allowable subject matter. Thus, Claims 2-5 and 10-13 are in condition for allowance.

As discussed during the telephone interview, *Debetencourt* does not disclose a cutting edge comprising a main blade including a cutting side that slopes backward from a tip of the main blade in a direction opposite the direction of rotation of the cutting member as recited in Claim 15 in combination with other claimed features. Instead, *Debetencourt* discloses a knife 14. If the right side of the knife 14 (the direction of rotation being to the right) is the cutting edge, then the cutting side does not slope backward from a tip of the main blade in a direction opposite (to the left) the direction of rotation of the cutting member. Likewise, if the left side of the knife 14 (the direction of rotation being to the left) is the cutting edge, then the cutting side does not slope backward (to the right) from a tip of the main blade in a direction opposite the direction of rotation of the cutting member.

The remaining dependent claims 6-9 are amended to depend from independent claim 15 and are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for the individual features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

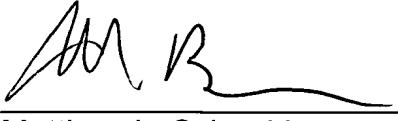
Early and favorable action with respect to this application are respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application; the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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